

VASHON MAURY ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: September 14, 2011
Location: Puget Sound Energy Conference Room
Presiding: Patti McClements, President
Attending: Patti McClements, President, Barbara Stratton, V.P., Laura Griffith, Treasurer, Nancy Sipple, Secretary, Debi Richards, E.D., Linda Bianchi, Alison Bockus, Gib Dammann, Andrew Davis, Ken Maaz, Molly Reed, Priscilla Schleigh Kimmel, Natalie Sheard, Melinda Sontgerath, Sue Stinson, Ad. Assistant

Guests/Visitors: Rebecca Whitman, Claudia Kimball

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: Meeting was called to order at 8:37am.

VISITOR: Kronos owner, Claudia Kimball, expressed her concerns about the way the Big Square Street Dance was organized and how it negatively impacted her business. The Board will take her concerns seriously and appreciated her input. Further discussion of the event would follow later in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: With no additions or corrections to the minutes, Melinda moved and Ken seconded that the minutes be approved as written. All were in favor.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Open House Date: October 20, 2011, 6:30-8:00.

Next Term Board Participation: The Board discussed retiring BOD members and nomination forms for new members were distributed. Allison is leaving the Board and to complete her term nominated Rebecca Whitman, her successor as the new Director of the Vashon Farmers' Market/VIGA. Rebecca will express her interest in writing and the Board will vote by email. Discussion of other possible Board members followed. It would be desirable to have a member from the "town core" group of Vashon merchants.

Strategic Planning Meeting: October 5, 2011, PSE conference room. Pot luck details to follow.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Update: Laura reported that we are currently ahead of budget, but the surplus is misleading. Membership dues are coming in according the change in the billing cycle, but the budget was never adjusted to reflect this change. However, we are \$3300 ahead in cash and are "eking ahead", Laura reported. More tasks will be done by volunteers in the future which will improve the picture even more.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Welcome Vashon: Discussion: a "Welcome to Vashon" packet for new residents, a project headed by Emma Amiad, real estate broker, and Sue Gardner, community member. There has been one "partnership" meeting between the Chamber and the community so far. Our contribution to the project will be business related. We could possibly contribute a merchant coupon book that we would design and the partnership would solicit. This program is in its very early stages.

"Shop Local First" – Island Directory: The 2001 edition cost \$4000. Discussion: requirements for inclusion in such a directory. The Chamber's goals: to print and mail to every Island resident and to be revenue neutral for the Chamber.

Holiday Garland: Garland hanging will be the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 20, 9:00am. Discussion: source of the garland: Dig? Kathy's Corner? Island Home and Lumber? True Value? More discussion will follow.

New Holiday Events: Proposed: a Gingerbread House Competition. Discussion followed.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership Committee: The Board discussed new and renewing members and a few losses.

New Member Welcome Packet: Discussion: items that are to be included in the packet. The Board reconsidered if mugs are a good idea and concluded that packaging will benefit from smaller items. Decision: window clings, note pads and bamboo pens. The window clings will be ordered.

ADDITIONAL REPORTS/DISCUSSION:

Big Square Street Dance Recap: The Board discussed positives, negatives, location, timing, how to make the event more beneficial to our merchants. Debi distributed a survey she took of local merchant impressions of the event. A review of the profits and losses was tabled until next month. Debi will meet with Gib and put a complete P&L in writing for the Board to review.

Vashon Fire and Rescue: Discussion: reports of deep budget cuts and how the Chamber can take a leadership role in interfacing with the County and communicating our concerns.

DDES Violations Report: Of great concern to the Chamber is an extensive report from DDES of B&B establishment violations. Discussion followed. Debi will investigate.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 10:40pm

NEXT BOARD MEETING: A brief Board meeting will precede the Strategic Planning Session on October 5, 2011, 3:00pm, Puget Sound Energy Conference Room

Nancy Sipple, Secretary, Vashon Maury Island Chamber of Commerce